



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR NORTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, BURNETT, DOUGLAS, IRON, PRICE, RUSK, SAWYER, TAYLOR, WASHBURN

June
2005

County
Per Capita
Personal
Income
table on
page 2
(updated
May 2005)

Job Growth Spurs Lower Unemployment Rates

The number of residents with jobs in May in Northwest Wisconsin increased for the third straight month as area job-seekers found work with local employers. With more job opportunities in the region the number of unemployed residents declined and the unemployment rate fell from 6.3 percent in April to 5.5 percent in May. Unemployment rates declined in nine

of the ten counties in the northwest region as did the rates in 54 of the state's 72 counties. One area county, Taylor County, showed no change from the April unemployment rate of 6.8 percent.

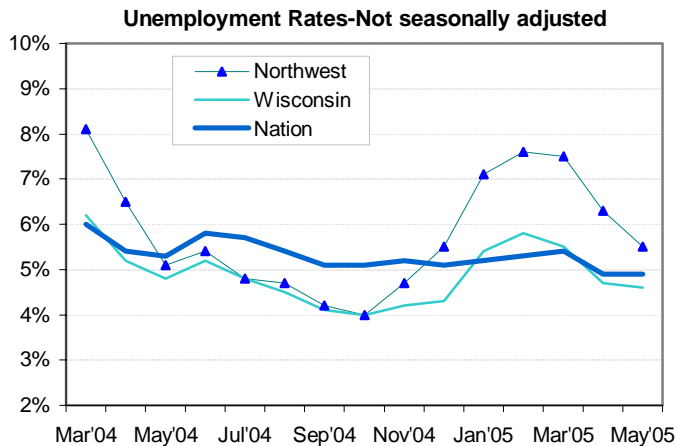
The unemployment rate in Wisconsin in May declined to 4.6 percent, not seasonally adjusted, from 4.7 percent in April while the national unemployment rate

was unchanged at 4.9 percent. Seasonally adjusted the state unemployment rate in May was 4.7 percent and the national rate was 5.1 percent.

The number of residents in Northwest Wisconsin with jobs climbed to 92,500 in May. The increase of 1,500 jobholders during the month was the weakest increase in May since the early 1990s but followed a strong employment gain in April.

Employment growth was more than ample, however, to absorb nearly 800 residents who were unemployed and looking for work in April. Out of a total labor force in May of 97,860 roughly 5,500, or 5.5 percent, were unemployed.

The largest increase in jobs in May in the northwest region occurred when leisure and hospitality employers added 860 jobs. While leisure and hospitality employers in every county in the region added jobs in May, employers in Sawyer County added 240 jobs and 170 jobs were



	Mar'04	Apr'04	May'04	Mar'05	Apr'05	May'05
Northwest	8.1%	6.5%	5.1%	7.5%	6.3%	5.5%
Wisconsin	6.2%	5.2%	4.8%	5.5%	4.7%	4.6%
Nation	6.0%	5.4%	5.3%	5.4%	4.9%	4.9%

Civilian Labor Force Estimates* for Northwest Wisconsin counties: May 2005

	Ashland			Bayfield			Burnett			Douglas			Iron		
	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04
Labor force	9,330	9,165	10,476	8,161	8,135	9,185	8,486	8,383	8,384	22,953	23,026	23,506	3,114	3,138	4,141
Employed	8,808	8,590	9,937	7,762	7,569	8,757	8,084	7,888	7,996	21,839	21,785	22,310	2,880	2,843	3,873
Unemployed	522	575	539	399	566	428	402	495	388	1,114	1,241	1,196	234	295	268
% unemployed	5.6	6.3	5.1	4.9	7.0	4.7	4.7	5.9	4.6	4.9	5.4	5.1	7.5	9.4	6.5

	Price			Rusk			Sawyer			Taylor			Washburn		
	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04
Labor force	9,006	9,013	8,553	7,669	7,694	7,493	9,083	8,831	8,837	11,752	11,553	11,174	8,305	8,200	8,197
Employed	8,559	8,540	8,173	7,161	7,126	7,042	8,594	8,221	8,356	10,958	10,772	10,656	7,848	7,640	7,775
Unemployed	447	473	380	508	568	451	489	610	481	794	781	518	457	560	422
% unemployed	5.0	5.2	4.4	6.6	7.4	6.0	5.4	6.9	5.4	6.8	6.8	4.6	5.5	6.8	5.1

* not seasonally adjusted

Industry Employment Estimates for Northwest Wisconsin: Current month - May 2005

(Employment in thousands)	Ashland			Bayfield			Burnett			Douglas			Iron		
	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04
Total Nonfarm	9.2	9.0	9.2	4.2	3.9	4.0	5.3	5.1	5.3	18.3	17.8	18.3	2.2	2.0	2.2
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.2
Manufacturing	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Trade	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	3.0	2.9	3.0	0.4	0.4	0.4
Transportation & Utilities	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.3	2.2	2.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Financial Activities	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
Education & Health Services	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.7	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Leisure & Hospitality	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	2.3	2.2	2.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Government	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
	Price			Rusk			Sawyer			Taylor			Washburn		
	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04	May '05	Apr '05	May '04
Total Nonfarm	7.1	7.0	6.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	7.3	6.9	7.3	9.6	9.4	9.5	6.4	6.2	6.2
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
Manufacturing	2.6	2.6	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.5	0.4	0.5	2.8	2.7	2.8	1.0	1.0	1.0
Trade	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.0
Transportation & Utilities	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Financial Activities	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Education & Health Services	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	1.1	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total Government	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.3	2.1	2.1	2.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.4	1.4

Current month preliminary. Estimates based on March 2004 benchmark. Summing from unrounded numbers.

added by employers in Bayfield County. The recent increase brings the total number of jobs in leisure and hospitality to 8,200 which will likely increase again next month.

In the last two months manufacturing employers added 250 jobs to the local economy. Many of those

jobs were with employers in Sawyer and Taylor counties but employers in all counties of the northwest region added production workers in May and increased the total number of manufacturing jobs to 12,390, more than one year ago but slightly lower than in May 2003.

Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI) increased in each of the ten counties in Northwest Wisconsin in 2003. The greatest increase of 4.1% occurred in Taylor County while the least increase of 1.4% was in Iron County. In the ten-county area PCPI rose 2.7% faster than the increase in Wisconsin of 2.5%.

PCPI is derived by dividing total personal income (earnings, dividends, interest, transfer payments) by total population. Earnings comprise 61% of total personal income in the northwest and increased 5.0% in 2003 compared with a 70% share in Wisconsin and an increase of 4.7%. In spite of the increases in personal income all counties in the region are well below the state PCPI. Price County, with the highest PCPI in the region, is ranked 45th in the state; while Rusk is ranked second to the lowest in the state.

Information on PCPI is available at <http://www.bea.gov/beat/regional/reis/>

Per Capita Personal Income

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Rank	Percent of WI
Ashland	\$19,893	\$20,373	\$21,271	\$22,513	\$22,509	\$23,204	55	76%
Bayfield	\$19,988	\$20,416	\$21,441	\$22,157	\$21,993	\$22,660	62	74%
Burnett	\$19,464	\$20,100	\$21,211	\$22,182	\$22,129	\$22,796	60	74%
Douglas	\$20,449	\$21,358	\$22,612	\$23,046	\$23,199	\$23,568	53	77%
Iron	\$18,918	\$19,597	\$20,772	\$22,352	\$22,599	\$22,912	57	75%
Price	\$21,708	\$21,650	\$21,863	\$23,173	\$23,561	\$24,361	45	79%
Rusk	\$17,944	\$18,629	\$19,333	\$20,421	\$19,915	\$20,461	71	67%
Sawyer	\$19,566	\$20,730	\$22,200	\$23,143	\$23,322	\$23,921	50	78%
Taylor	\$19,751	\$20,277	\$21,013	\$21,456	\$22,116	\$23,020	56	75%
Washburn	\$19,644	\$20,231	\$21,324	\$22,072	\$22,130	\$22,794	61	74%
NW Wis	\$19,889	\$20,532	\$21,530	\$22,359	\$22,470	\$23,077		75%
Wisconsin	\$26,175	\$27,135	\$28,570	\$29,392	\$29,937	\$30,685		100%

Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, May 2005

Find the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

Direct questions and comments to: **Beverly Gehrke, Labor Market Analyst**
 Hayward Job Center, 15618 Windrose Lane, Ste. 108, Hayward, Wisconsin 54843
 715-634-5289 715-634-6094(FAX) e-mail: Beverly.Gehrke@dwd.state.wi.us